

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/829,593

Examiner

M Rachuba

Applicant(s)

JEONG, IN KWON

Art Unit

3723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Appeal Brief filed 16 October 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6 and 10-23.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
- Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. The application has been amended as follows: This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 7-9 and 24-113 directed to inventions non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, **claims 7-9 and 24-113 have been cancelled.**

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record does not disclose or fairly teach an apparatus for polishing objects, the apparatus comprising: a first object carrier positioned over a first polishing surface; a second object carrier positioned over a second polishing surface; a first object relay device positioned between the first and second object carriers, the first object relay device including a first load-and-unload cup and a first pivoting drive mechanism, the first pivoting drive mechanism being configured to pivot the first load-and-unload cup to and from the first and second object carriers about a first pivoting axis to transfer the objects from the first object carrier to the second object carrier; and a second object relay device positioned adjacent to one of the first and second object carriers, the second object relay device including a second load-and-unload cup and a second pivoting drive mechanism, the second pivoting mechanism being configured to pivot the second load-and-unload cup to and from one of the first and second object carriers about a second pivoting axis to transfer the objects to the first object carrier or from the

second object carrier. The closest prior art, to Nakajima et al, teaches the general linear layout of the system, but uses carrying plates on to which multiple wafers are adhered. There is no disclosure that any other system other than one for multiple wafer processing may be used. While loading-unloading cups are well known in the art, the prior art does not teach the cups carried and pivoted by a relay device, to supply the wafers to the carriers. For example, Hemple et al, 6,227,950, teaches a similar system, but here the pivoting mechanism has a gripper end effector, that feeds wafers to the cups. It is the examiner's position that lacking motivation to provide Nakajima et al with load-and-unload cups in place of the plates, or to provide Nakajima et al with motivation to process only one wafer at a time, rather than multiple wafers, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to have provided Nakajima et al with the cups and pivoting mechanism as claimed by applicant.

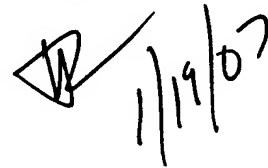
4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M Rachuba whose telephone number is 571-272-4493. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hail can be reached on 571-272-4485. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

M Rachuba
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3723

Handwritten signature and date. The signature is a stylized 'M' with a checkmark-like flourish. The date is written as '1/19/07'.